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Russians Out-Haggle British In Swap of Captured Spies

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LONDON—Russia's security services won a hard haggling match against their British counterparts Wednesday when Greville Wynne, 45-year-old "British businessman" serving eight years for espionage in the Soviet Union, was exchanged for "Gordon Lonsdale," who was serving a 25-year sentence for spying in Britain.

Lonsdale was first identified by U.S. Atty. Gen. Robert F. Kennedy as 40-year-old Konon Trofimovitch Molody, a high-ranking Soviet intelligence officer.

He was sentenced at the Old Bailey March 22, 1961, after engineering the systematic theft of highly valuable secrets from the British naval underwater weapons establishment at Portland, on the south coast of England, for five years. Four subsidiary members of his apparatus were sentenced at the same time.

There is no doubt of Lonsdale's importance and continued value to the Soviet intelligence services.

WYNNE, ON the other hand, has ceased to be important if in fact he ever was important. He seems to have been primarily a contact man and courier, although American agents have credited him with "getting to" a number of important Soviet officials and scientists. Col. Oleg Penkovsky, who was executed last May for passing secrets to Wynne, was considered a valuable scientific worker.

Wynne was arrested in Budapest in November, 1962, while attending a trade fair as "managing director of Mobile Exhibitions Ltd." British officials belittled his importance and his intelligence when they were not denying his activities as an agent.

Now, in justification of their apparent willingness to give the Soviet Union "money for old rope," the British have been quick to point out that the United States did the same thing in February, 1962, when it exchanged Col. Rudolph Abel, a top-notch professional Soviet agent, for Francis Gary Powers, the U-2 pilot who had been shot down and captured by the Russians.